

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. Democrats raise the minimum wage, Republicans cut taxes for rich friends. Democrats vote for education and job training, Republicans raise taxes on working families.

Republicans help the rich and hurt the rest of us. They voted against Social Security, against Medicare. Senator DOLE even brags about voting against Medicare.

Republicans have started to talk about helping the middle class. It is time to do something about it.

Raise the minimum wage. Invest in education. Protect the pensions of working families.

Republicans have started to talk the talk. It is time for them to walk the walk.

□ 1030

VOTE "NO" ON THE TEMPORARY FUNDING BILL

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today we will do a temporary funding billing that will cut environmental enforcement programs for the Clean Water Act, the safe drinking water program. We will cut out the COPS Program and replace it with a block grant program that does not guarantee one more police officer on the streets of America. But the biggest cuts are in education, \$3.3 billion in education.

In my district of northern Michigan, some of my counties, such as Antrim County, will lose \$100,000; Cheboygan, \$130,000; Grand Traverse County, over \$200,000. What about college student loans? Over \$4 billion in cuts in college student loans.

Mr. Speaker, we need programs that will support an increasing of wages for our workers. We need a program that will assure them good benefits and a secure retirement. We should be investing in education and training and not cutting it. Therefore, I will vote no on this temporary funding bill today.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce; the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; the Committee on International Relations; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Committee on National Security; the Committee on Resources; the Committee on Science; the

Committee on Small Business; the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these questions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

GUARANTEEING CONTINUING FULL INVESTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS IN OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 371 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 371

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3021) to guarantee the continuing full investment of Social Security and other Federal funds in obligations of the United States. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this is a simple rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3021. House Resolution 371 provides for 1 hour of general debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Following the hour of general debate, this resolution provides one motion to recommit as is the right of the minority. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is intended to provide the Treasury Secretary with the authority to invest trust fund receipts or other Federal funds from the date of enactment of this bill through

March 29, 1996. H.R. 3021 also extends the current authority to incur debt, not subject to the public debt limit, for the purpose of guaranteeing the timely payment of Social Security payments and other Federal disbursements. We must not jeopardize the full faith and credit of the United States, and this bill assures that Social Security payments and other Federal disbursements are available to the American people who have paid into these funds.

This is a very straightforward rule. This short term legislation not only protects those who have paid into Federal trust funds but also represents a good faith effort to allow the Governors sufficient time to work with the Congress and the administration on welfare and Medicaid reform.

The Governors who are involved in efforts to reform entitlements have requested more time to finalize the details of a bipartisan welfare and Medicaid reform proposal. This bill will give us some additional time to work out an agreement that may help salvage the economic future of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is not business as usual. It is about our commitment to save our country from a crisis of crushing debt. The current Federal debt is approximately \$4.9 trillion and interest on the debt is \$235 billion per year. Over the next 15 years—if current patterns continue—this Nation will pay as much on interest on the debt each year as we pay for national defense beginning as early as 1997. Absent some fiscally responsible action by this Congress and the President, the interest on the debt and the spending on entitlement programs will soon strangle our economy and rob our children and grandchildren of the American dream. It is immoral to leave this mountain of debt to future generations.

It is important to note that this bleak scenario only becomes reality if current spending patterns continue. This Congress has already begun to make a difference by passing reduced appropriations bills and by passing the Balanced Budget Down Payment Act, which will save a combined \$30 billion this year.

We know, however, that it is the uncontrolled growth of mandatory entitlement spending that will be the greatest contributor to the increasing debt. The massive spending associated with these programs is linked to the condition and magnitude of the debt. It is for this reason that we should pass this short-term debt limit increase while we continue to negotiate entitlement reform proposals that may be completed by the end of the month.

This rule and the accompanying legislation will surely pass with overwhelming support, serving as a solid sign that the House remains optimistic about the chances for responsible reforms. Given the administration's statements criticizing the Governor's reform proposals, we remain concerned that an agreement may prove elusive. However, the Governors have requested